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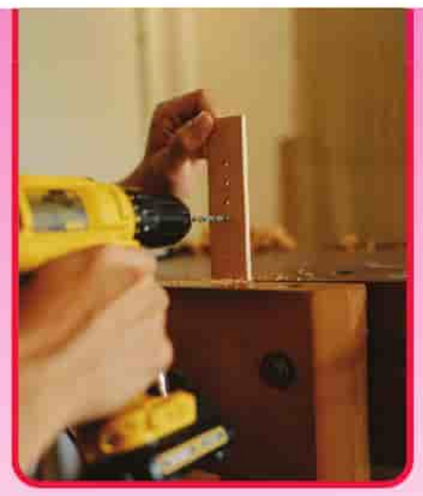

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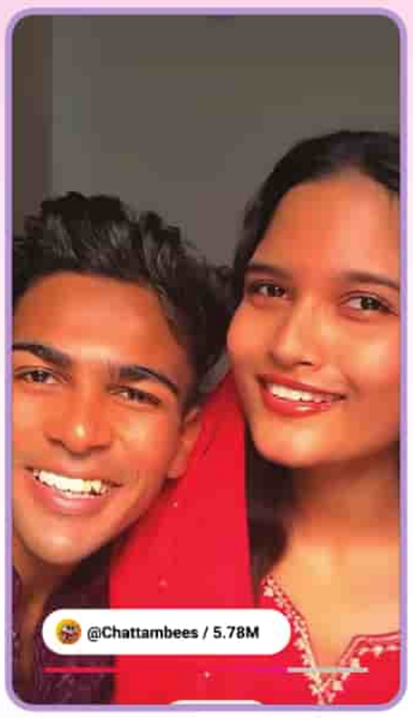


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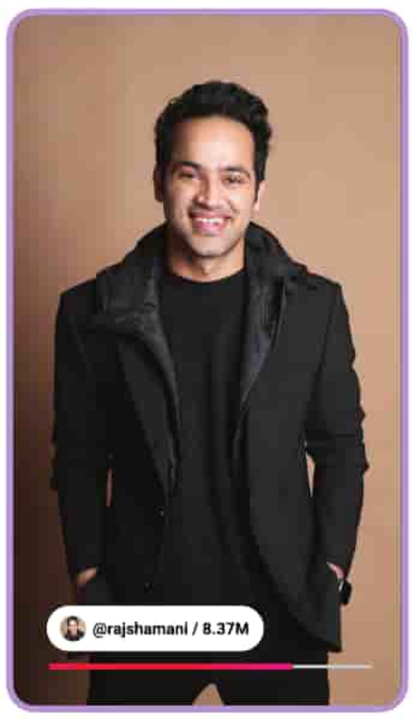


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## CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

Are credit card users who diligently pay off their dues in full every month unknowingly facing damage to their credit scores?

PAGE 3

## DEATH IN THE WOODS

Wake-up call for forest dept as environmentalists call deaths of tigers utter failure in conservation; govt in damage control

PAGE 10

CAUGHT IN THE WEB

# Dream of a job in foreign land, wake up in scam quicksand

**As per Immigration Bureau data, 29,446 Indians have gone missing between 2022-24 during their search for jobs or higher education in foreign countries — latest case from B'luru exposes horrors of cyber slavery**

| Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As yet another case of 'cyber slavery' emerges in the city, authorities are being urged to bring the focus on this devious crime that has ensnared many youngsters from the country.

Conmen lay out lucrative overseas job offers, luring thousands of Indians abroad, who later find their dreams hijacked and passports seized. Once trapped, they're forced to work in cybercrime call centres targeting fellow Indians, speaking in their native languages to gain trust and swindle victims.

A complaint registered on June 2 is from a resident of JP Nagar 5th Phase, under the jurisdiction of Puttenahalli Police Station. The complainant said he was unemployed and searching for job opportunities on Facebook.

During his search, he came across a Telegram link advertising positions in US Voice and Non-Voice processes. The job promised a monthly salary of USD 900, an attendance bonus of USD 100, and a USD 200 commission.

Upon expressing interest, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

PAGE 5: ELDERLY AT RISK

**"Beware of flashy job ads and lucrative offers on social media cyber fraudsters are specifically targeting visa and passport applicants. These networks, operating across countries like India, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, and Taiwan, have set up cybercrime hubs resembling IT call centres**

—Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar

# How to catch more rain?

As less than 20% of properties in city with BWSSB connections install rainwater harvesting system, officials say older properties don't have provisions to do so

| Garima Prasher
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To date, less than 20% of the properties in Bengaluru with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) water connections have installed rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems.

According to BWSSB, while 11.3 lakh properties in the city have BWSSB water connection, a little over 2.18 lakh properties have RWH systems.

In 2023-24, as many as 11,259 properties installed the RWH system, and 12,817 opted for it in 2024-25. During May and June this year, 4,287 properties opted for the system.

RWH systems in the city were made compulsory in 2011 for all buildings constructed since 2009 and measuring 1,200 feet and above under the BWSSB Act, 2009. As per the Act, properties constructed before 2009 and measuring 2400 feet and above were also supposed to comply. The rule does not apply to properties smaller than 60*40 square feet of ground area, built before 2009.

In 2021, through an amendment bill, BWSSB made RWH mandatory for buildings on sites measuring 60x40 feet and more.

"Bengaluru should take pride in having the second-largest rainwater harvesting system in the country, only next to Chennai. However, while 2.18 lakh properties with RWH system is a considerable number, it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Pitch perfect

Swar, a platform dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Indian classical music, is presenting 'Colours of India – Morning Raagas', a soulful morning of melodious explorations in Hindustani and Carnatic traditions.
**Where: Artkhoj, JP Nagar;**
**When: June 28, 10 am**

### 02 Crafty finds

Swadeshi Art and Craft Exhibition is bringing an exclusive sale of handlooms, handicrafts, jewellery, sarees, accessories, khadi kurtas, suit pieces, and home accessories.
**Where: White Housse, HSR Layout;**
**When: June 22 to 29, 10.30 am to 9 pm**

### 03 Work of art

Indian Institute of Cartoonists is presenting 'Through the Eyes of RK Laxman', a tribute exhibition in 78 colourful caricatures.
**Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Sivanchetti Gardens;**
**When: June 7 to June 28**

### 04 Legal realm

Vivek K Chandy, Joint Managing Partner at JSA Law, will be delivering a special address titled 'From Moot Court to Main Court: Charting Your Path in the Legal Profession'. Open to grades 9 to 11, the event involves discussion on careers in law and the legal world today.
**Where: Winmore Academy, Jakkur;**
**When: June 28, 10 am**

### 05 Family time

Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is presenting 'Family Day', a celebration of all the amazing people who make up your unique family, with a day packed with captivating stories, thrilling games, and hands-on creative fun.
**Where: Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar;**
**When: June 29, 11 am to 7 pm**

# Delayed mark sheets stall college admissions

## Parents and students say that digital copy of marks card lacks basic elements of authenticity to distinguish it from fake, resulting in institutions deeming it invalid

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Thousands of recently passed out second-year Pre-University (PU) students in Karnataka are facing uncertainty and anxiety over the delay in the issuance of official marks cards for the academic year 2024–25. Although the results were declared on April 8, students are still waiting for the official hard copies of their mark sheets, leaving many stranded in the middle of the crucial university admission season.

In stark contrast to other boards which had released official documents within a week of results, Karnataka's Department of Pre-University Education has not announced any fixed date for when students will receive their verified mark sheets.

Currently, students can only access a digital copy of their marks from the official education board website. However, parents and students say that the downloadable version lacks basic elements of authenticity, such as an emblem, watermark, or official embossment to distinguish it from a fake. "It looks so ordinary that any child with basic editing skills could fabricate it," said Sharad Sharma, a parent, adding that no university is willing to accept such a document. "The results are supposed to be given on April 8 but we haven't received the original hardcopy of the marks card. My daughter has applied abroad for higher studies, they haven't accepted the downloaded copy. If it's delayed and intakes are full, then my daughter will waste her one entire year, and has to reapply next year" said Sharma. He said that despite writing a letter to the Education Minister and regular follow-ups he has not received any update yet.

It has been over two months since the PUC exam results were announced but official mark lists have not been received yet

**In a letter to the Education Minister, Sharad Sharma, a parent, urged the expedition of printing and distribution of the official marks cards so that students do not miss out on crucial opportunities**

In the letter, Sharma highlighted that it has been over two months since the results were announced, but parents and students are still waiting for the official mark lists. "My child's university admissions, especially for institutions outside India and in other states are getting affected because the downloadable mark sheet from the KSEEB website lacks any official stamp or emblem, and is therefore not being accepted as a valid document," he stated in the letter. Additionally, he urged the authorities to expedite the printing and distribution of the official 2nd PUC marks cards so that students from Karnataka do not miss out on crucial opportunities to pursue undergraduate studies in reputed institutions.

As universities in India and across the globe continue to process admissions, time is running out for many students whose futures hang in the balance. Parents and students are urging the Department of Pre-University Education to immediately release an official statement and timeline regarding the issuance of original marks cards. They warn that any further delay could have long-lasting consequences for thousands of students. With admissions hanging by a thread, students and families are now appealing to the state government and Education Minister to intervene and bring accountability to the process.

## Steps initiated to shift Film Institute

Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar has assured that steps will be taken to upgrade the Film and Television Institute courses under SJ Polytechnic and shift its existing campus from Hesaraghatta to Bengaluru city limits. The move aims to enhance learning opportunities and provide access to modern infrastructure.

The assurance came after a delegation comprising veteran actor Srinath and alumni of SJ Polytechnic met the Minister on Thursday to submit a memorandum. The delegation urged the Minister to relocate the institute to the city, making it more accessible and relevant to aspiring students. Responding to the appeal, Dr Sudhakar said he would soon visit the Hesaraghatta campus, assess the situation, and hold discussions with officials before taking appropriate action. **-BMB**

## Counselling dates out for guest lecturers

The Department of Collegiate Education has released the counselling schedule for the recruitment of guest lecturers for the academic year 2025–26. The online application began on June 26, and will remain open until July 3. The list of applicants will be published on July 4, and candidates will be allowed to edit their online applications from July 4 to 8. Selected candidates can report for duty on August 4. Candidates who have already applied online for the 2024–25 academic year do not need to submit a fresh application. However, those wishing to update or correct their existing application details may do so using the 'Application Edit' option. The department has also instructed that candidates who have served as guest lecturers in the past must obtain a service certificate from the respective principals in accordance with Rule 25. **-BMB**

## Over 13,000 govt schools face risk of property loss

Despite a five-year campaign to safeguard government school properties in Karnataka, more than 13,000 institutions — including over 11,000 primary schools, 2,000 high schools, and 156 PU colleges — still do not have land registered in their names. This has raised serious concerns about the possibility of land encroachments or legal disputes. In several districts, including Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa's home district of Shivamogga, over 1,200 institutions are still awaiting proper land registration. Cases of fake donation claims and unregistered land transfers by donors have further complicated ownership, with some plots still listed under original landowners or their heirs, especially after property values have increased.

Sources in the Education Department revealed that encroachments and false claims are rampant, particularly in areas like Chitradurga, Mandya, Bengaluru Urban, Tumakuru, and others. Though the state began a campaign in 2019, only about 5,000 properties have been secured so far. The government currently runs a three-month annual drive to verify and reclaim such properties. **-BMB**

# Clean credit habits face scoring flaw

## Credit card users who repay in full each month are seeing their credit scores dip due to lesser-known metric called 'High Credit', which reflects peak spending, not repayments

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Credit card users who diligently pay off their dues in full every month are unknowingly facing damage to their credit scores, says Sunil Satija, a finance professional who is calling for reforms in the way credit utilisation is calculated by credit bureaus like CIBIL. At the heart of the issue is a lesser-known parameter called 'High Credit', which Satija claims is being used unfairly to assess the creditworthiness of consumers, even those who never default on payments.

### Credit card convenience turns costly

Credit cards offer unmatched convenience, from interest-free periods and cashback offers to discounts and reward points. Many users maximise these benefits by swiping their cards not just for personal expenses but also for family or business-related purchases, all while ensuring full repayment before the due date. However, according to Satija, this seemingly responsible financial behaviour is ironically hurting their credit scores. "People are spending within their means and repaying in full, yet they're being penalised as if they're over-leveraging themselves. That doesn't make sense," he says.

### 'High Credit' anomaly

Satija explains that credit card companies report a parameter called 'High Credit' to credit bureaus like CIBIL. This refers to the highest amount billed during a given statement cycle, regardless of repayment status. For instance, if a user has a ₹5 lakh limit and spends ₹4.5 lakh in a month, the bureau considers that a 90% utilisation rate. Even if the entire ₹4.5 lakh is repaid before the due date, the consumer's credit profile reflects high utilisation, which negatively impacts the credit score. "This method doesn't acknowledge the repayment. It sees only the high billing, not the full settlement," Satija points out.

### Misaligned metrics need review

Drawing a comparison with long-term loans like home or personal loans, Satija notes that in those cases, credit bureaus consider only the outstanding amount as credit utilisation, not the total loan sanctioned. He argues that a similar logic should apply to credit card users, especially those who pay their dues in full. "If someone clears their credit card bill every month, their utilisation should be recorded as zero. That's the real picture of their financial discipline," he asserts.

### Full payments don't guarantee approval

Satija also shared his personal experience with a multinational bank that refused to renew his credit card despite his impeccable repayment track record. "Their internal algorithm flagged me, and the staff said they couldn't override it, even though I had never defaulted. It was baffling," he recalls. This experience led him to dig deeper into how credit card utilisation was being interpreted. Since then, he has changed his repayment pattern, clearing dues before the billing statement is generated, to avoid the high utilisation tag altogether.

### Triggered by CEO's revelation

The tipping point for Satija's public advocacy came when Zerodha CEO Nithin Kamath shared that his credit score was just 747. For someone with solid financial credentials, that number was surprisingly low. "If even someone like Kamath is getting hit by this scoring method, imagine the millions of common consumers who are unaware of the trap they're in," says Satija. He believes this reflects a systemic issue that deserves wider attention.

### Need for transparency

Satija is calling for three immediate actions: confirmation from CIBIL that this is indeed the methodology being followed; an explanation of why this approach is used; and a review of the system to ensure it accurately reflects true credit usage. "It's not enough to simply label spending as high credit if the repayment is full. That skews the credit profile and misinforms lenders," he says. If credit bureaus resist making changes, Satija insists that a consumer awareness campaign is critical. "People need to know that repaying before the statement is generated, not just before the due date, is the only way to maintain a healthy score under the current rules," he warns.

### Simple, logical fix

According to Satija, the solution lies either in revising the methodology or empowering consumers with the right information. He summarises the path forward with two options: either CIBIL and banks correct the flawed parameter to reflect actual credit utilisation post-repayment, or consumers should start prepaying significant portions of their dues before the statement is generated to avoid being flagged for high usage. "Credit bureaus intend to measure financial risk, but the current methodology misrepresents responsible behaviour. It needs to be fixed. If not, then at least let consumers know how to work around it," he concludes.

## Crypto exchange ends in heist

A 35-year-old businessman was robbed of ₹2 crore in cash and four mobile phones at knife-point in MS Palya Circle, Vidyaranyapura, on Tuesday. The incident occurred while the victim was attempting to convert cash into cryptocurrency for purchasing machinery from Germany.

On the suggestion of two acquaintances, he approached Benjamin Harsha, allegedly promising to help convert the cash into USDT (a cryptocurrency).

Acting on instructions, the victim, along with two friends, went to MS Palya Circle on Tuesday, carrying the ₹2 crore in a car. They met Benjamin Harsha near a shop and handed over the money to him and two of his associates for the conversion process. As the three men were counting the cash with a currency-counting machine, a gang of six to seven unidentified men stormed into the shop. The gang reportedly threatened Harsha and his friends at knife-point, assaulted them, and forcibly took away the entire ₹2 crore along with four mobile phones. —BMB

## Stampede probe nears end

The magistrate's inquiry into the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede during RCB's victory celebration has neared its conclusion, with suspended IPS officer Dayanand's key statement now on record.

Appearing before the magistrate on Thursday, Dayanand said the chaos unfolded due to the last-minute announcement of free tickets. "I inspected all 21 gates that day. Security arrangements were on par with any IPL match. But delay in opening the gates, combined with the free entry announcement, led to a surge in the crowd and triggered the stampede," he stated. The investigation, probing the death of 11 people, has recorded 140 witness statements. —BMB

## Youth booked for wheeling

A 19-year-old youth was booked by Talaghattapura Traffic Police after he was caught performing a wheelie on a scooter without a headlight on 80 Feet Anjanapura Road around 3 pm.

According to the police, the rider was identified as V Pawan Kumar from Assam, was taken into custody along with the vehicle. A case has been registered under Section 281 of the BNS and Sections 129, 177, and 189 of the Motor Vehicles Act. —BMB

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# Trees felled while BU officials say they are 'just eucalyptus'

## As green zones make way for new blocks, BU promises sustainability—citing decarbonisation funds, biodiversity zones, and 6 lakh saplings planted since 1998

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In a classic case of "don't worry, it's just the eucalyptus," Bangalore University has responded to criticism over campus tree felling with a seemingly reassuring clarification — it's not cutting down any precious trees, just the expendable ones like eucalyptus and acacia.

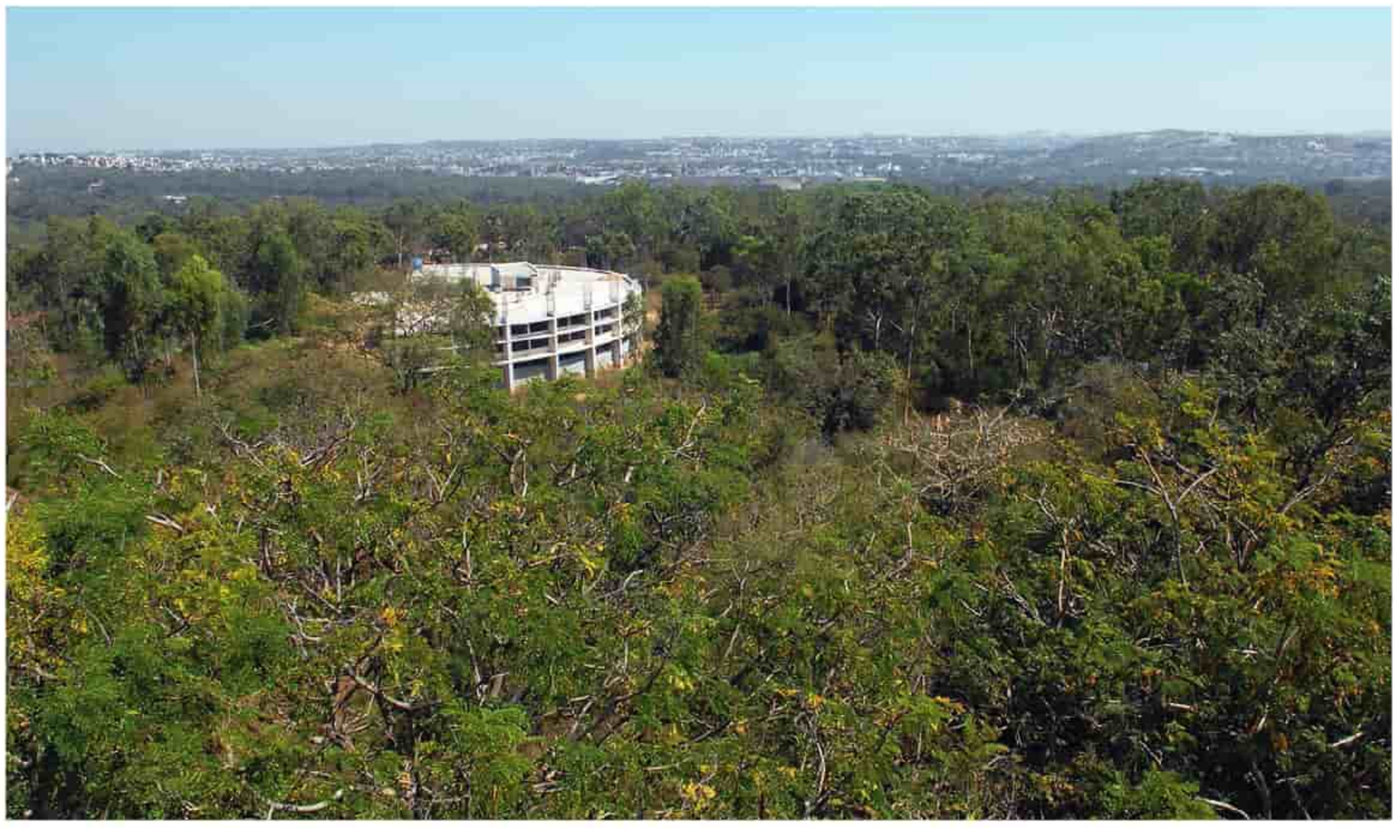
### Clarification on tree felling and land use

Facing backlash over axing trees for new construction, BU Vice-Chancellor Dr Jayakara S M clarified that the area earmarked for upcoming buildings is not part of the university's eco-sensitive zones. "Only 282 trees out of 419 are being impacted, and 169 of them are just eucalyptus trees," he said. The rest, located in the buffer zone, will reportedly be spared, and smaller trees relocated.

The university assured that it will plant ten saplings for every tree cut, in line with the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976. And in its defence, the campus has already planted over 6 lakh saplings from 300 species since 1998 — a fact the administration hopes will help them weather this environmental storm.

### Green campus and biodiversity conservation efforts

While trees are being cleared, the university maintains it is still committed to going green. Under the PM-USHA scheme, 8 crore is being directed toward decarbonisation efforts. These include pedestrian pathway renovations (for field studies, not joggers), LED lighting, rainwater harvesting, electric vehicle promotion, and even a Nature Interpretation Centre — perhaps to interpret how "eco-friendly" development involves cutting down hundreds of trees.



Only 282 trees out of 419 are being impacted, and 169 of them are just eucalyptus trees

**The 58 crore development includes a new Academic Block focused on digital education and STEM, and a Research Block dedicated to climate change, AI, and social equity**

Biodiversity zones like Charakavana and Panchavati will be rejuvenated, and watchtowers installed — maybe to keep an eye on what's left of the greenery.

### More concrete

Bangalore University insists that new infrastructure is unavoidable. With all 73 existing buildings fully occupied and vertical expansion ruled out due to safety concerns, the only way forward is outward—into the woods. The 58 crore development includes a new Academic Block focused on digital education and STEM, and a Research Block dedicated to climate change, AI, and social equity. Although the campus spans 1,184 acres, nearly 300 acres are leased to other government institutions. The remaining 832 acres, largely forested, leave limited options—or so the narrative goes. In a closing note, the BU Vice-Chancellor stated the allegations were baseless and all development is student-centric, scientifically planned, and legally compliant.

## Kempegowda Jayanthi: New bus shelter

Residents of New Thippasandra and nearby areas marked the 516th birth anniversary of Bengaluru's founder, Kempegowda, with vibrant celebrations on Friday. A new bus shelter was inaugurated at Kempegowda Circle—making it the second at the location. The area around the statue has been enhanced with landscaping, marble benches, and decorative lighting. As part of the green initiative, several saplings were also planted, adding to the festive and community-focused atmosphere.

"We developed the space around Kempegowda Statue at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh. We reconstructed the platform, reducing the height for the benefit of the public," said MLA S Raghu.

## Smart meters for rural power from July

Beginning July 1, all new and temporary electricity connections in rural areas under BESCOM's jurisdiction must be equipped with smart meters, in line with a directive from the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). The mandate, already in effect for urban areas—including Bengaluru city since February 15—has now been extended to rural regions. Applicants will need to procure smart meters from BESCOM-authorised outlets before proceeding with connection formalities. This move follows KERC's guidelines issued on March 6, 2024, and is part of the ongoing phased rollout of smart metering infrastructure across the state.

Energy Minister KJ George said that smart meters, powered by Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology, come with

GPRS/RF-based communication capabilities and cloud connectivity. Unlike conventional meters, these devices allow real-time monitoring of electricity consumption, voltage, and power factor via a mobile app. Consumers can also make advance payments and recharge their meters for specific durations, ensuring on-demand usage. In the event of a power disconnection, supply can be restored immediately after bill payment, improving efficiency and consumer convenience. **-BMB**

## Awareness on distinct condition

On the occasion of the International Day of Deafblindness observed on June 27, doctors and disability specialists are calling for heightened public awareness and early medical intervention to address the unique challenges faced by individuals with both hearing and visual impairments.

According to health professionals, deafblindness is a distinct condition that goes beyond the sum of its two sensory losses, requiring comprehensive, multi-disciplinary support to enable affected individuals to lead independent lives. Medical experts stress that timely screening, accurate diagnosis, and customised rehabilitation are essential, especially in children. Doctors said the deafblindness may be congenital—present from birth due to genetic conditions, infections, or complications during delivery. **-BMB**

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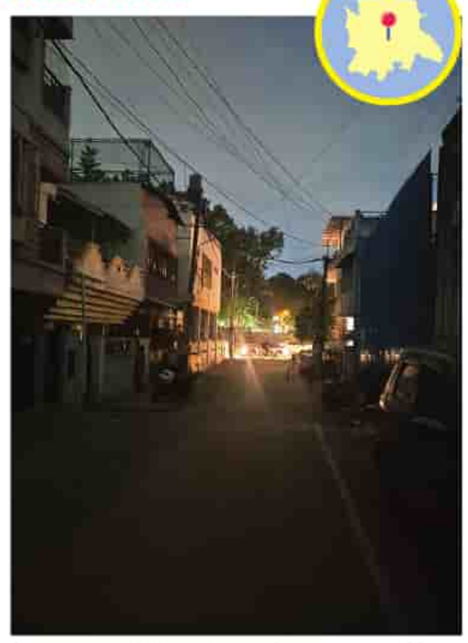
### Blocked footpath
**Miller Road**

The footpath beneath the railway bridge on Miller Road, near the Benson Town Post Office, is entirely blocked, forcing pedestrians onto the busy roadway and endangering their safety.

### In the dark
**Frazer Town**



No streetlights have been working on 4th Cross, Sindhi Colony in Frazer Town for the past 15 days. With the road ending in a dead end, the darkness poses serious safety concerns for residents and pedestrians.

### Illegal banners
**Nagarbhavi**

Nagarbhavi Main Road is cluttered with illegal flex banners, obstructing visibility and creating an eyesore for daily commuters.

# Short Jamun season drives big market demand

As June rolls in, fruit markets across the City begin to dazzle with the dark charm of the "Black Beauty" — the Jamun (Indian Blackberry). Known for its rich nutrients and eye-catching deep purple hue, this seasonal fruit is now making its grand entrance into local markets, priced between 200 to 240 per kg. The Andhra Jamun, sourced from regions like Andhra Pradesh, Ballari, Haveri, Ranebennur, and the Malnad districts, is notably bigger and sells at a higher price of around 200 per kg. Its rich colour and excellent taste make it a top pick. In comparison, the smaller native Jamun is about 50 cheaper per kg. However, local vendors claim that the native variety surpasses the larger Jamun in flavour and quality.

Traders explain that since the fruits grow in forested areas and along roadside trees, they are collected carefully from tall branches. "Harvesting is tricky — the fruits are delicate and bruise easily if they fall. We handpick them from the trees, which takes time and effort," says Hussain Saheb, a vendor from Ranebennur. "Out of 30 kg we bring daily, nearly half gets damaged, forcing us to sell the rest at a slightly higher price." The demand for Jamun is high due to its short seasonal window — just about 6–8 weeks from early June to late July. "In Ayurveda, Jamun is valued for treating diarrhoea and digestive issues," says an Ayurvedic physician. "Its pulp is used to make wine, and jams, while the seeds, rich in protein, potassium, and carbohydrates, are used in Ayurvedic and Unani medicines." **–BMB**

# Senior digitally held captive, loses ₹5.41 crore

## 70-year-old man loses life savings to fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials; they isolate and intimidate him into making 15 bank transfers

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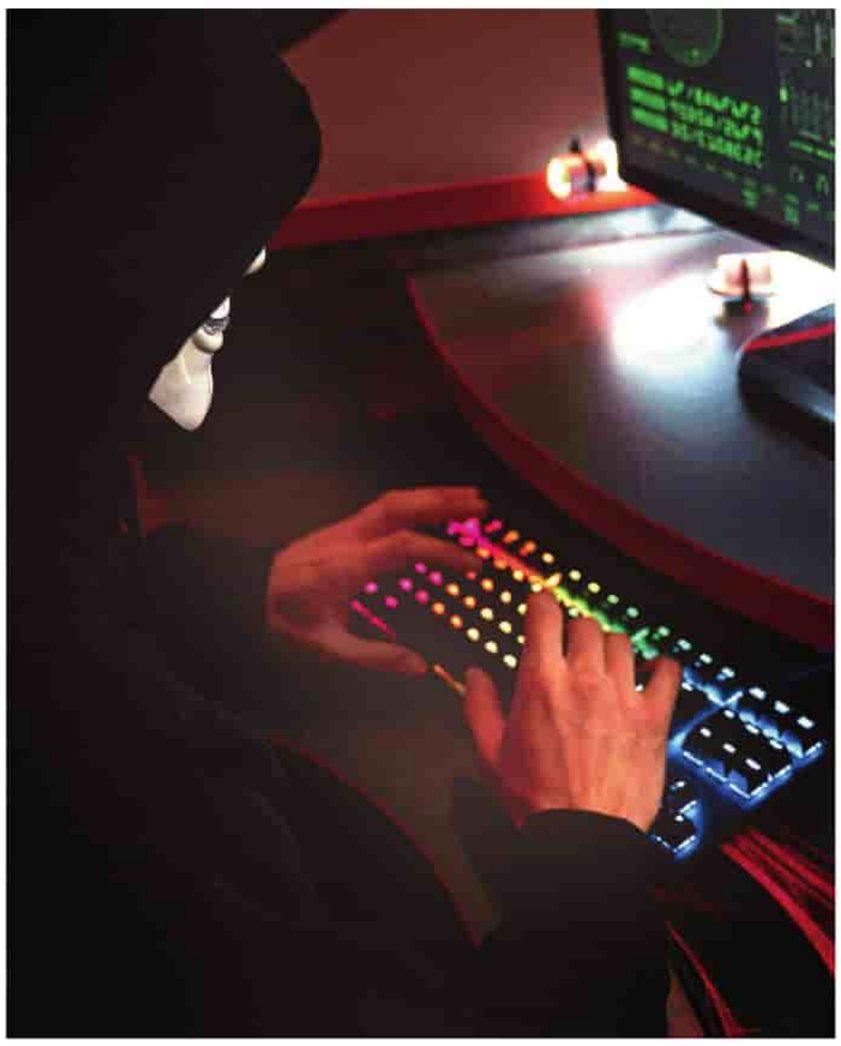
A 70-year-old man was digitally held captive and duped of ₹5.41 crore by fraudsters posing as law enforcement and central agency officials.

The senior citizen, whose identity has been withheld for privacy, was the victim of an elaborate cyber scam that began on November 20, 2024. He received a WhatsApp call from a man claiming to be an inspector from Delhi, who falsely accused him of being involved in money laundering and human trafficking through a fake company based in Faridabad. The caller shared a forged arrest warrant and claimed that the victim's Aadhaar and PAN cards had been found during a crackdown.

What followed was a psychological trap that held the elderly man hostage in fear and isolation. The victim was forced onto a video call with another fraudster posing as a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer, who threatened arrest and demanded access to his bank details for so-called verification and bail procedures. In just two days, November 21 and 22, the man was manipulated into transferring his entire life savings across 15 transactions to multiple private bank accounts, totalling 5.41 crore.

The fraudsters, operating from unknown locations and using multiple mobile numbers, issued strict instructions: do not switch off your phone, do not talk to anyone, and consider yourself under CBI custody. They warned that any deviation or attempt to hide assets would lead to seizure and imprisonment.



The fraudsters warned the victim to stay silent, keep his phone on, and obey or face asset seizure and jail

**Such cases become harder to crack due to delayed reporting. In this case, victim stayed silent for nearly 7 months, terrified by continuous psychological threats, manipulation from fraudsters**

### Months of silence after scam

What makes such cases even more challenging to crack is the significant delay in reporting. In this instance, the victim remained silent for nearly seven months, too terrified to speak out due to constant psychological threats and manipulations by the fraudsters. By convincing him that he was under "CBI custody" and warning him against speaking to anyone or turning off his phone, the scammers effectively cut him off from all support systems.

This prolonged isolation not only deepened the victim's trauma but also gave the perpetrators ample time to erase their digital footprints. Cybercrime investigators often stress that the longer the delay in reporting, the slimmer the chances of recovering lost funds or tracing the culprits, especially when transactions are dispersed across multiple accounts and jurisdictions. Time is critical in such cases, and unfortunately, fear-induced silence plays right into the hands of cybercriminals.

Despite repeated digital safety drives conducted by police and cybercrime units, especially those targeting elderly citizens through helplines, workshops, and public awareness events, this case highlights a disturbing gap in effectiveness. Sources reveal that the victim finally overcame months of fear and filed a complaint via the 1930 cyber crime helpline. They also state that the accused told them that the money would be returned after a 'crosscheck', but nothing happened. Police have registered a case, and further investigations are underway.

Authorities are now urging families to stay actively involved in the digital activities of elderly members and to routinely educate and check in with them about basic online safety practices. Authorities have once again urged the public, especially the elderly, to remain cautious and never transfer funds or share personal information based on phone threats or unsolicited calls from supposed government officials.

# Housing scam accused evades arrest

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) issued a non-bailable warrant against Disha Choudhary of Dreamz Infra India Limited on June 18. The warrant was issued in connection with a complaint filed by Basant Kumar Nandy and others.

The NCDRC issued a bailable arrest warrant against Disha Choudhary on April 16, directing the Station House Officer of the concerned police station to execute it. She was to be released on a personal bail bond of 10 lakh, with one surety of the same amount, and was instructed to appear in person before the NCDRC on the next date of hearing.

"The report of SHO, Amruthahalli Police Station, Bengaluru City, has been received, stating that the said arrest warrant could not be executed as Disha Choudhary is not locatable," the NCDRC order read.

The NCDRC said that Choudhary is willfully evading the process of this Commission, not complying with directions of this Commission for personal appearance before the Commission, and evading even the arrest warrants issued through the police authorities. "Accordingly, we are constrained to issue non-bailable arrest warrants through the Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, with direction to get the warrants executed through the concerned police station(s) and produce Disha Choudhary before this Commission immediately on arrest for further directions of the Commission. Registry to immediately issue a formal arrest warrant," the NCDRC order read.

The NCDRC listed the complaint for hearing on August 13.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, "What stands between investors and Dreamz: Rs 15L and a few good men," on June 4, 2018, narrating how the victims of the multi-crore Dreamz Infra reality scam pinned their hopes on the then-new government and were ready to move the High Court for justice. The story narrated how the officials were waiting for Rs 15 lakh to be sanctioned for publishing recovery notification in newspapers, and for the appointment of seven personnel on a contract basis for the process.

It is said that Dreamz Infra Pvt Ltd was floated by Sachin Naik back in 2012, offering low-cost housing options with an initial one-time payment from buyers. His name, however, does not appear in the papers as Disha Choudhury was appointed as Managing Director.

It is estimated that 8,980 investors were duped of at least Rs 700 crore through these three firms in Bengaluru and nearby areas.

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# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

### Sepals steal the spotlight

Our reader shares a striking image of a violet ivy flower, highlighting the often-overlooked beauty and purpose of sepals. Even after the petals have fallen, the colourful sepals remain not just as a visual delight, but as vital agents in attracting pollinators and supporting the plant's survival and propagation.

The picture was clicked by BM reader
**S Sampath Kumari**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

# Bengaluru's key suburban rail projects stuck in slow lane

**Delays in Yeshwanthpur–Channasandra and Baiyappanahalli–Hosur lines spark commuter anger, stalling hopes for faster suburban travel**

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Two major suburban railway projects in Bengaluru, the Yeshwanthpur–Channasandra double line (21.7 km) and the Baiyappanahalli–Hosur double line (48 km) — are progressing at a sluggish pace, triggering concern and frustration among regular railway commuters. K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company - Karnataka), already under criticism for slow suburban railway implementation, is overseeing both these projects.

Despite initial deadlines set for completion by the end of last year, both projects remain unfinished, causing mounting concern among daily passengers. With growing demand for both passenger and freight movement across Bengaluru and its peripheries, timely execution of these works is seen as essential. However, railway officials confirmed that both projects are still "under progress."

The Yeshwanthpur–Channasandra double line project, estimated at 683.57 crore, was launched in October 2020. As of now, work is ongoing along a 10.3 km stretch between Yeshwanthpur and Hebbal. A separate 2.7 km segment from Baiyappanahalli to Channasandra is being handled by the South Western Railway's construction division.

> **"Both suburban railway projects are still 'under progress' despite being scheduled for completion by the end of last year** –Railway official

According to sources, no major doubling work was completed in the last financial year, leaving commuters and railway activists disappointed.

Currently, only 52% of this project has been completed. The route serves as a vital link between Banashankari and Hebbal, connecting to Tumakuru-bound services. It also plays a crucial role in freight operations. The lack of a double line causes regular halts and delays, particularly affecting MEMU services requested by Tumakuru commuters. Passenger groups say the situation has only worsened over time.

Meanwhile, the Baiyappanahalli–Hosur project, sanctioned in 2018-19 with an estimated budget of 1,148 crore, has progressed further, with 83% of the work completed. Work on a 10.3 km stretch between Carmelaram and Heelalige began in the 2022-23 financial year. This line is vital for trains coming from Salem into central Bengaluru stations such as Cantonment and KSR (Majestic).

## DID YOU KNOW?

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded warnings on Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to include broader detail on the rare risk of myocarditis, a mild heart inflammation primarily seen in young males. The updated labels now state that myocarditis occurred at a rate of 8 cases per 1 million people aged 6 months to 64 years who received the 2023–2024 vaccines. The condition is most frequently reported in males aged 12 to 24.
The FDA's expansion contrasts with CDC findings, which reported no increased risk and mostly mild, short-lived myocarditis cases. -AP

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9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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# US and Israeli strikes on Iran nuclear sites pose limited radiation risks

**No elevated radiation levels detected yet**

The United States and Israel launched coordinated airstrikes early Sunday targeting three of Iran's key nuclear sites—Natanz, Fordo, and Isfahan—sparking global concerns over the possible release of radioactive material. However, the UN's nuclear watchdog confirmed that, so far, no elevated radiation levels have been detected outside the facilities.

In a statement, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said, "No increase in off-site radiation levels has been reported as of this time." The agency added it would continue monitoring the situation and provide further updates as more information becomes available.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful energy production. However, its stockpiles of highly enriched uranium have drawn international attention, particularly from Israel, which has vowed to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

The Natanz nuclear facility, located around 220 kilometres southeast of Tehran, had previously enriched uranium to 60% purity—just short of weapons-grade—before earlier Israeli strikes destroyed its aboveground structures. A more recent strike reportedly severed power to its underground section, where most of the centrifuges were located. The IAEA said most, if not all, of these centrifuges—which had been enriching uranium to 5% purity—were likely damaged or destroyed.

Rafael Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, told the agency's board during an emergency session on June 16 that some radiological and chemical contamination inside Natanz was possible. However, he confirmed that radiation levels outside the complex remain within normal limits.

Fordo, another key enrichment site about 100 kilometres southwest of Tehran near the city of Qom, is built deep beneath a mountain. Iran is believed to have conducted much of its near weapons-grade enrichment at this facility. Given its fortified nature, the US is believed to have used "bunker buster" bombs during the strikes. However, Grossi told the UN Security Council that the extent of underground damage at Fordo remains uncertain and urged Iranian authorities to grant IAEA inspector's full access.

In Isfahan, Israeli strikes reportedly hit four buildings, including a uranium conversion facility. The IAEA said there has been no detected rise in radiation levels at the site, which lies about 350 kilometres southeast of the Iranian capital.

Despite the scale of the strikes, experts believe the risk of widespread radiation exposure is minimal. David Albright, a physicist and founder of the Institute for Science and International Security in Washington, said uranium itself is not highly toxic and naturally occurs in the environment. He noted that any radiation exposure from a leak would likely be equivalent to that experienced during several trans-Atlantic flights. To become seriously ill, one would have to ingest large amounts of uranium, he said.

However, experts warn that the greater danger might come from fluorine gas, used to create uranium hexafluoride for enrichment. Fluorine is highly reactive and toxic, capable of causing severe harm if inhaled or exposed to skin.

### India denies claims of US using its airspace

India has dismissed as "fake" social media claims that US fighter jets used Indian airspace during recent strikes on Iranian nuclear sites. The Press Information Bureau's Fact Check unit clarified on X that Indian airspace was not used during Operation #MidnightHammer. It further cited US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair Gen. Dan Caine, who explained the actual flight route at a press briefing, refuting the misinformation being circulated online.

# Premium plotted projects boom in Kanakapura Road

Kanakapura Road in South Bengaluru has rapidly emerged as a prime destination for plotted developments, drawing interest from both homebuyers and investors. Once known for its lush green belt and spiritual retreats, the area has transformed into a sought-after residential corridor, offering premium plots that blend nature, excellent connectivity, and long-term value.

With excellent road infrastructure, seamless access to NICE Road, and the ongoing expansion of Namma Metro Phase II, the region has transformed into a hotspot for plotted layouts with modern amenities and a touch of tranquillity. Developers are offering plots in gated communities that feature landscaped gardens, wide internal roads, underground cabling, STPs, children's play areas, and clubhouse facilities.

Unlike Bengaluru's crowded zones, Kanakapura Road offers open spaces, cleaner air, and a strong sense of community living

**"This is not just a piece of land—this is a future-ready space where we can retire peacefully, surrounded by nature yet well-connected to the city**

— Mr. and Mrs. Raghunandan, NRI plot buyers

"We were looking for a long-term investment that also gives us the flexibility to build our dream home. A premium plot near Art of Living campus offered just that—with greenery, fresh air, and good connectivity to key areas like JP Nagar and Banashankari," says Harsha V., a tech professional who recently purchased a 40x60 site on Kanakapura Road.

Buyers are particularly drawn to the scenic landscape, proximity to Thalagattapura Metro Station, and upcoming developments like the Peripheral Ring Road, which will drastically reduce travel time to other parts of the city. Unlike other congested parts of Bengaluru, Kanakapura Road still offers open spaces, better air quality, and a sense of community living.

"Plot buyers today are looking beyond just location—they want lifestyle and assurance. Gated plotted communities on Kanakapura Road are meeting this need by offering BDA- or RERA-approved layouts with complete legal clarity and modern infrastructure," says Rajeev Patil, Sales Head at a leading real estate firm developing projects in the region.

Plot sizes range from 30x40 to 50x80, with prices starting from ₹60 lakh onwards, depending on the location, project brand, and amenities. Many developers are also offering custom villa construction support, turning plots into turnkey lifestyle homes.

For NRIs and high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), these plots serve as ideal retirement or second-home options. "This is not just a piece of land—this is a future-ready space where we can retire peacefully, surrounded by nature yet well-connected to the city," shares Mr and Mrs Raghunandan, who recently purchased two adjoining plots for a future joint-family home.

Even small developers are upping their game by offering theme-based plotted layouts—some focus on eco-living with solar lighting and rainwater harvesting, while others promote leisure living with parks and wellness zones.

With limited inventory and increasing demand, Kanakapura Road is seeing steady appreciation in plot values, making it a preferred corridor for premium plotted developments in Bengaluru. Investors believe the region's potential will grow multifield in the next 5–10 years, particularly with institutional projects and tourism-related infrastructure developments like the Bengaluru–Mysuru express corridor and Kanakapura bypass.

In essence, Kanakapura Road has hit the sweet spot—premium plotted offerings in a green, serene, yet well-connected stretch of the city, offering lifestyle, investment, and legacy—all in one piece of land. **–PRAKASH VL**

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# 'Do not accept overseas job without consulting Indian Embassy'


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I Anitha Gnanavelou D/O, Kaliyamoorthy R/o 10,1st cross,saibaba Layout Parapanna Agrahara Road, Bangalore have changed my name to Anitha K per Aadhaar

I, SARVA MANGALA w/o Yarab Pasha r/o 45/13, Bettana Palya, Kengeri, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560060, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from SARVA MANGALA to SALMA. Sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravi, on 17/5/2025 at Bengaluru

I Ranjeet Kumar Gupta S/O, Suresh Prasad Gupta R/o No 93/92/431/sy No 80-b-222 Platinum Gardenia Apt Kembathahalli Gramatana Ward 196-anjanapura Bannerghatta Bengaluru - 560083 have changed my name to Ranjeet Gupta.

I Nidhi Misra, R/o Flat 2072 Prestige Lake Ridge, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061 have changed name of my minor daughter from Aditi Mishra to Aaditi Mishra vide affidavit dt 23/06/2025 before Notary Puttaramaiah.

I, SWARNALATHA MULLANGI CHENCHU W/O Late Reddappa Mogili Shankaraiah Aged About 68 Years R/At 103A, 5th Cross,DEE Enclave,Behind Maruthi Nagar,Kodigehalli Main Road,Bengaluru - 560092, have changed my name to SWARNALATHA vide affidavit dtd:27/06/2025 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

GET NOTICED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

complainant was informed via Telegram that he had been selected after an interview. On October 24, 2024, he flew to Thailand, where a man who identified himself as Asif shared a hotel address with him. After checking in, the complainant was taken to a place called Maysalt and later moved to the Myanmar border.

There, Asif began pressuring him to engage in fraudulent activities. When the complainant refused, stating that he had agreed to do data entry work and not scams, he was held against his will for around three months and fifteen days.

Eventually, the Myanmar military discovered the situation, rescued the complainant and others, and placed them in a rest centre for 17 days. They then contacted the Indian Embassy, which facilitated the complainant's return to Bengaluru. The complainant has now filed a case against Asif, accusing him of luring him abroad under false pretenses and coercing him into illegal activities.

According to Immigration Bureau Official data, 29,446 Indians went missing between 2022 and 2024 in search of jobs or higher education. But many, especially young jobseekers tempted by the promise of lakhs in earnings, have fallen prey to online traps.

### Advisory

According to last year's advisory by the Cyber Crime Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, there has been a surge in cases of Indian nationals being trafficked by international crime syndicates operating near the Myanmar-Thailand border, particularly in the Myawaddy region. The advisory strongly urged Indian citizens not to accept overseas job offers without first consulting the Indian Embassy. Hpa Lu south of Myawaddy has recently emerged as a new spot for trafficking, with victims being routed through Thailand after being recruited from India, Malaysia, UAE, and other countries.

Last year, the central government repatriated 400 individuals from Thailand. So far this year, 14 Indians have been rescued from Cambodia and another 67 from Myanmar.

In another case in May 2024, a young man from Kodagu was lured and fell into a trap. The fraudster promised him a job in Bangkok through a medical company and demanded ₹1 lakh. The victim sent his passport and ₹95,000.

On May 23, he flew to Bangkok, was taken to Myanmar, and forced into scam work, which involved collecting phone numbers of wealthy foreigners. He was held until February 2025, when the Myanmar army rescued him. The victim is now seeking legal action against Abidabhanu and Muzamil for trafficking and cheating him.

"Beware of flashy job ads and lucrative offers on social media cyber fraudsters are specifically targeting visa and passport applicants. These networks, operating across countries like India, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, and Taiwan, have set up cybercrime hubs resembling IT call centres.

Young Indians lured by promises of high-paying jobs are unknowingly handing over their personal information, only to be trafficked abroad.

Once overseas, their passports are seized, and they're forced into cybercrime rackets. Verify before you trust," warned Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer.

Chetan Anand further added, "Job seekers are advised to check/ verify credentials of foreign employers through the Indian Embassy located in that country.

The antecedents of recruiting agents as well as companies should also be established before taking up any job offer abroad.

Job seekers should not accept any job offers floated through unverified sources."

### Good practices

1. Search and apply for jobs posted on authentic job portals or newspapers. Do not apply for jobs posted on search engine ads, social media ads or labelled sponsored links or results.
2. Verify and then trust: Check the company's website, check the authenticity of the job and check reviews of the company and job placement agency in reputed websites.
3. Keep a note of where you have applied for the job / the mode of application. Do not respond to any generic emails from an unknown company, as it could be a scam.
4. Check for grammatical errors, incorrect punctuations and spelling mistakes in the e-mail and offer letter.
5. In case of jobs in a foreign country, take extra precaution to ensure the placement agency, company and the job is genuine.

# Some homes do not have enough space for RWH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

could have been better," said S Vishwanath, a city-based water expert. BWSSB officials say most of the non-compliant properties are those constructed before 2009.

"New constructions are adding this provision. However, the problem is in the case of buildings that were constructed before 2009 and fall under this regulation.

More often than not, these buildings did not have the provisions required to install an RWH system, and thus, they are finding it difficult to do so. However, we are imposing fines, and we have noticed some buildings installing the system after paying a penalty for a few months," said a BWSSB official.

The Board has been penalising citizens for not harvesting rainwater. In May this year, 44,816 property owners were penalised, and the total penalty amount collected was Rs 4.21crore.

Experts say many houses in the city's outskirts, covered under the Cauvery Stage 5 project of BWSSB, are already doing rainwater harvesting. Once these connections are completed, the number of properties with BWSSB connections and RWH systems will surge.

According to Vishwanath, it is properties with insufficient space or land disputes that have not been able to harvest rain.

"It is not necessary for all properties to have a RWH system due to various constraints. Some properties do not have rooftop structures conducive to installing RWH systems. Such constraints need to be accepted. All that is needed is to persuade the majority to harvest rain, and that will be good enough for Bengaluru," says Vishwanath.

Experts underline that although citizen participation in Bengaluru for RWH has been above average, other forms of rainwater harvesting systems, apart from rooftop, should also be encouraged.

"RWH can happen at the individual level, community level, institutional level, and at the watershed level. Many institutions, apartments, houses, and gated communities have taken on various forms of RWH. Rainwater harvesting at the watershed level is the need of the hour," said an expert.

They also suggested that BWSSB join hands with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to prioritise linking storm water drains with lakes to harvest rain at watershed level, while ensuring that SWDs are free of sewage.

IN COURT

# Cauvery Aarti: Govt served notice

## File affidavit in reply to petition challenging plan in 2 weeks: HC

The Karnataka High Court served notice on Friday to the State government and other respondents regarding a petition challenging their plan to conduct Cauvery Aarti near the KRS reservoir, due to environmental issues.

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao and Justice CM Joshi directed, "Notice shall be issued to the respondents and the respondents shall file their affidavit in reply to the petition within 2 weeks," after a brief hearing with the Petitioner Sunanda Jayaram's counsel.

The State's Water Resource Department has approved administrative funding of Rs.92.30 crore to establish facilities for performing Cauvery Aarti, which is planned to be similar to Ganga Aarti.

The counsel for Jayaram argued that the authorities made this decision without proper consideration of its implications.

The petition argues that the State's decision violates the Dam Safety Act 2021.

The petitioner requests the court to nullify the government order for Cauvery Aarti and seeks an interim stay order.

—BMB

# CM directs police to improve quality of investigations

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued clear directives to the state police on Friday, emphasising on the need for improved quality in criminal investigations and timely legal action stating that while the crime rate in Karnataka has decreased, the standard of police investigations has deteriorated. Speaking at the annual state-level police conference, he addressed senior officials, including the Bengaluru Police Commissioner and the Director General of Police (DGP).

At a review meeting held at the State Police Headquarters, the CM expressed concern over delays and lapses in critical cases. Citing a robbery in Bidar, he questioned why the suspect had not been arrested even after five months of identification.

The CM also criticised the delay in filing chargesheets and inaction in hate speech cases. "Why aren't officers taking suo motu action against those who incite communal tension? If you don't act, we will act against you," he warned.

During the conference, police achievements from the pat year and plans for 2025 were reviewed. The CM noted that serious crimes such as theft, murder, and dacoity have seen a decline in 2024. However, he stressed that the quality of investigations, not just crime statistics, is critical. " Each case must be handled with legal precision, and investigations must be completed on time," he urged

In 2023 the cyber crime rate was 24% meanwhile in 2024 cybercrime rate stands at 9%, prompting the CM to call for stronger efforts in this domain through efficient and timely investigation. He instructed senior officers to regularly visit police stations, monitor FIR registrations, and follow up on charge sheets especially in cases involving women, children, Dalits, and farmers.

—BMB

# Prajwal's absconding status comes up in court hearing

The High Court heard opposition from the State government regarding a successive bail petition by former MP Prajwal Revanna in a rape case. The State argued that a direct approach to the high court for bail without first consulting the trial court was inappropriate.

During the hearing, Special Public Prosecutor Professor Ravivarma Kumar presented before Justice SR Krishna Kumar, highlighting the petition's maintainability issue due to bypassing the sessions court.

The court sought clarification about whether Revanna's first bail application followed proper procedure through sessions court, and if subsequent applications required the same protocol.

Kumar confirmed this requirement, citing Supreme Court and High Court precedents. He noted that changed circumstances would warrant a successive bail application before the sessions court.

Kumar emphasised Revanna's conduct, particularly his absconding status and prior legal actions. He detailed Revanna's lawsuit seeking restraint on adverse media coverage, which resulted in a temporary injunction against media outlets and an individual named Karthik.

The proceedings are scheduled to continue on July 2.

# Cases against Bommai quashed

The Karnataka High Court quashed two criminal cases on Friday against former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai regarding alleged objectionable statements made during a protest rally. The rally was held to protest against the Waqf Board and State Government's alleged seizure of farmer and temple properties.

Justice S R Krishna Kumar granted Bommai's petition and dismissed the proceedings initiated under sections 196(1)(a) of the BNS at the Shiggaon police station.

Senior Advocate Prabhuling K Navadgi, representing Bommai, contended that the complaints failed to establish the essential elements of Section 196(1)(a) of BNS, which deals with promoting religious and racial discord.

The court specified that this ruling applies exclusively to Bommai and not to other accused individuals in the case.

# Medical negligence FIR against 2 docs

**Man claims heart procedure performed without consent**

The High Court has directed the filing of a medical negligence FIR against two doctors from private hospitals for allegedly conducting surgery without proper authorisation.

Vikas Dev claimed that the first accused doctor received consent to insert a catheter on his father's right side but performed the procedure on the left side. Following his father's worsening condition, he was transferred to the other hospital, where he died from cardiac arrest during an operation by the second accused doctor, also performed without consent.

Justice M Nagaprasanna instructed the Police to file an FIR and proceed legally. The court noted, "When the sanctity of medical care is breached by alleged negligence, it is not merely a lapse of procedure, but a desecration of dignity inherent in human life."

Dev stated his father's death resulted from the doctors' negligence, but authorities dismissed his complaint with a non-cognizable report, suggesting the case belonged before the Karnataka Medical Council under the Karnataka Medical Registration Act, 1961.

The complaint indicates that both the Assistant Police Commissioner and Deputy Police Commissioner failed to act.

# Regulations for immersing ashes

**Process of visarjane gets regularised**

Every day, hundreds from Bengaluru travel to Srirangapatna to immerse the ashes of their departed loved ones in the sacred Cauvery river. In a first-of-its-kind move, the Srirangapatna Town Municipality has brought in a structured system by inviting tenders for managing the visarjane process, awarding the contract for ₹95 lakh. This step aims to curb malpractice, bring transparency, and ensure that rituals are carried out in a scientific and eco-friendly manner.

Four immersion points—Paschimavahini, Doddasriranganatha Swamy Ghat, Begula Snanaghatta, and one more designated spot—have been officially notified for asthi visarjane. Authorised priests will carry ID cards issued by the municipality, and only they can collect service fees. Unauthorised immersion at river points or private gardens will attract penalties. This follows citizen petitions and court directives calling for protection of the Cauvery. The municipality has also requested government grants to develop basic amenities at these sites and ensure the sacred river is respected and preserved.

—BMB

# 'Door-to-Door Police' initiative

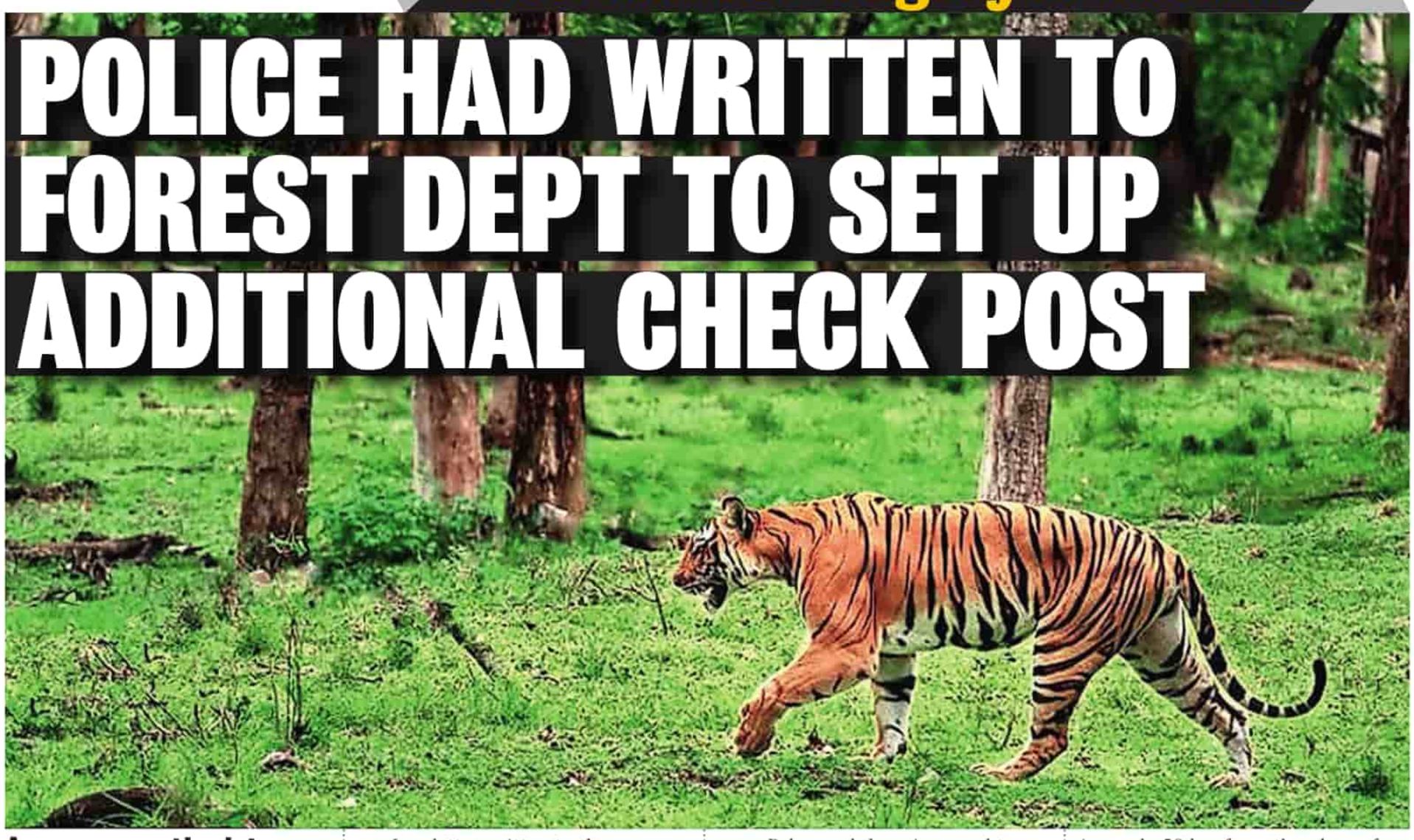
The 'Door-to-Door Police' initiative—a people-centric program designed to enhance community safety and public trust in the police was also launched by CM Siddaramaiah on Friday. The initiative, introduced through a detailed booklet, signifies a shift from reactive policing to a proactive, community-based model.

Highlighting the evolving role of the police, the CM emphasized that law enforcement must now function not just as custodians of law and order, but as protectors of peace and well-being. The new initiative encourages police personnel to regularly visit homes, listen to grievances, raise awareness on safety, and prevent crimes—especially those involving women, children, and cyber threats.

—BMB

Aftermath of tragedy in MM Hills

# POLICE HAD WRITTEN TO FOREST DEPT TO SET UP ADDITIONAL CHECK POST



## As conservationists term tragedy utter failure in ensuring wildlife safety, state govt jumps into damage control mode

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A day after five tigers were found dead in the Hoogyam Range of Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS), it has come to light that the Superintendent of Police of Chamarajanagar District had apprised the Karnataka Forest Department of possible risks related to poachers.

In a letter written to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests on June 6, a copy of which is with BM, the Superintendent of Police requested permission to open a separate police check post at the junction of Gopinatham and Palar, less than 20 km from MM Hills, for security reasons.

The letter highlighted that the said check post is required as the area borders three districts of Salem, Krishnagiri, and Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu. Thus, it is difficult to check vehicles and suspicious persons entering from TN.

"It is not possible to check vehicles and suspicious persons coming from MM Hills and going towards Hogenakal. It is necessary to check the movements of people in Gopinatham and the surrounding villages. There are poachers in the villages of Govindapadi, Shettipatti, Karangalur, Karekadu Kattarimalai, and other villages in Tamil Nadu near Palar, and there is a need to keep an eye on them," said the letter.

It further details that there is a need to open a separate police check post, as the restroom at the currently functioning checkpoint also houses weapons and wireless equipment belonging to the police department. If additional police personnel are deployed at the said check post in case of emergency information or messages received at an unexpected time, it becomes inconvenient for the personnel to stay and collect information for departmental duties.

However, the forest department said though they have not said no to the check post, the current tragedy could not have been averted with that provision. "We have not said no to the police department for the check post -- both departments are aligned. However, the check post would have had no bearing on the incident. The proposed check post is nearly 50 km from the place of the incident. Moreover, it is a case of poisoning. It appears the mother tiger killed a cattle, and when she came back to feed on the leftover carcass with her cubs the next day, it was already poisoned, leading to the death of all five tigers. All the body parts are intact, and it is not a case of organised crime," said Subhash K Malkhede, Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka.

Wildlife conservationists, however, have termed it a complete failure in ensuring wildlife safety and thus, conservation.

"The letter shows that while the Police department was prompt and performed its duty, the forest department did not take the warning seriously and did not bother to increase security in the area," said a wildlife conservationist.

### Tiger death fallout

Soon after the incident on June 26, the Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre moved into damage control mode and announced a slew of measures, apart from conducting a spot visit on Friday.

The area was cordoned off and declared a protected zone. Standard Scene of Crime (SoC) protocols were invoked to preserve and collect all physical evidence. A five-member expert team was also instated to undertake a comprehensive necropsy following NTCA protocols to collect tissue, blood, and stomach samples for processing for toxicology, histopathology, and DNA profiling.

In accordance with the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and NTCA guidelines, a high-level inquiry Committee has also been established under the orders of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, which will submit a comprehensive report within 14 days.

A press note from the Minister's office also stated that monitoring and anti-poaching vigilance is being strengthened by increasing real-time drone surveillance, infrared cameras, and GPS-based M-STrIPES patrols across the Hoogyam Range. A confidential informer network with reward mechanisms is operational, and a 24/7 confidential helpline has been activated at the Division Office to receive credible tips on wildlife crime.

"Strict action will be taken against those responsible for this heinous crime. Officials and experts who arrived for the investigation have raised suspicions that the tigers died due to poisoning. An order for a high-level investigation has been issued immediately with the help of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The postmortem examination has been conducted as per regulations, and the carcasses have been cremated," said Khandre after visiting the spot.

### Letter to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests on June 6 asks nod to open a police check post at junction of Palar and Gopinatham

# Wake-up call for better governance of forests

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The deaths of five tigers have raised pressing questions about forest management, timely action, and the effective use of conservation funds. Activists allege negligence in implementing necessary safety measures and lack of seriousness in protecting endangered species may have contributed to this loss.

Every year, the government spends lakhs — even crores — of rupees on wildlife protection, particularly through national-level tiger conservation schemes. Despite this, on-ground implementation remains weak. Forest officials, activists claim, often focus more on infrastructure and administrative work than on core wildlife protection activities.

The recent deaths add to a troubling list of tiger fatalities from poisoning in recent years. In 2018, two tigers died on the fringes of Bandipur Tiger Reserve. A year later, a tiger in Nagarahole died after eating meat laced with poison — intended for wild boars.

### Public outcry

Environmentalists have reacted with anger and despair. Many have taken to social media, accusing the forest department of gross negligence and corruption. Some claim that while the department is quick to showcase plantation drives and beautification projects, they fall short when it comes to actual conservation. Notably, the tiger population in Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve has dropped significantly since 2017, according to National Tiger Conservation Authority data.

### Cross-border poaching

The forests of Chamarajanagar share sensitive borders with Tamil Nadu, where poaching remains a constant threat.

Wildlife activists point out that these areas are high-risk zones, yet patrol and surveillance measures have not been sufficiently ramped up.

A wildlife activist said, "Beyond routine patrols and paperwork, the department must adopt a more proactive and technology-backed approach to forest surveillance. Equally critical is ensuring that allocated conservation funds are used efficiently and transparently."

### Previous cases of poisoning

In 2013, a tigress was found dead near Bommalapura village, adjacent to the Metikuppe Wildlife Range in Nagarahole, on February 16 — confirmed to be a case of poisoning. Just a month prior, on January 13, a male tiger had met a similar fate in the DB Kuppe range of the same forest. More recently, in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai region, which shares a border with Karnataka, two tigers were also killed by poisoning last year.

### Politics over MM Hills Tiger Reserve tag

Controversy continues to swirl around the proposal to declare Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills) as a tiger reserve. While environmentalists are pushing for the upgrade, local politicians and residents are strongly opposing it. Critics argue that declaring it a tiger reserve would hinder people's movement, cattle grazing, pilgrimage and farming activities. Efforts are reportedly underway to mobilise villagers in opposition. Some elected representatives from Hanur, including a former district in-charge minister, have openly resisted the proposal. An environmentalist said, "Given Karnataka's status as the second-highest tiger-populated state in India and the interconnected nature of its forests, including Nagarahole, Bandipur, BRT, and adjoining reserves in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, stronger measures are urgently needed to prevent further poisoning incidents and protect wildlife corridors."

**# To the Oscars**
Kamal Haasan, Ayushmann Khurrana among global artistes invited to join Oscars voting body

# Ideal bride

## Moms of eligible bachelors make beeline for 'Phool'

In Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies, Nitanshi Goel brought Phool Kumari to life with quiet grace, capturing the innocence and vulnerability of a rural Indian bride. Her understated performance and simple, earth-toned wardrobe helped root the character in authenticity. But the impact of the film has extended beyond the screen. Nitanshi shares that she's been getting a lot of wedding proposals from mothers who have been approaching her for their sons.

She told us, "Thanks to Laapataa Ladies, moms have started seeing me as their ideal bahu! At an event recently, I was dressed in a sari and these two lovely aunties came to me and said, 'You look so beautiful; we are looking for a daughter-in-law like you.'"

Caught off guard, Nitanshi responded with grace. "I was a little embarrassed, but I told them, 'You'll find your ideal bahu very soon.' But then they added, 'My son is the same age as you,'" she chuckled, hinting that the proposal wasn't just hypothetical. "I have got so many proposals from men and their moms. I must say, Phool has become an ideal daughter-in-law," she signed off.

**—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes**

# Cracking cryptic Insta clue

Tamannaah Bhatia has sparked intrigue with a cryptic Instagram Story, just as rumours swirl about her ex-boyfriend Vijay Varma's growing closeness with actress Fatima Sana Shaikh. While neither Tamannaah nor Vijay has publicly confirmed their reported breakup, sources suggest the couple, who began dating during the shoot of Lust Stories 2, parted ways over differences in life goals, with Tamannaah reportedly wanting to settle down while Vijay remains focused on his career.

Now, with Fatima and Vijay fuelling fresh dating rumours after being spotted together at a Mumbai cafe and sharing photos from the Umrao Jaan screening, Tamannaah's latest Instagram post has caught fans' attention.

On her Instagram Stories, Tamannaah shared a reflective quote that read, "Design taught me that white space isn't empty — it's intention. That not filling every corner is a form of trust. And maybe that's true for life, too. Not every moment needs to be packed or productive. Some spaces are just meant to breathe." She added an emoji that hinted at her agreement with the sentiment.

**— ETimes**

# Alia's splendid ode to 'living legend' Rekha

Actress Alia Bhatt, who attended the re-release event of "Umrao Jaan", dedicated a post to veteran diva Rekha and said that "there never, was, is or will ever be another like you."

Alia took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures and clips from the event. In one image, the actress posed for pictures with Rekha, who leaned on Alia to get clicked.

Alia captioned the post: ""An ode to a living legend... there never, was, is or will ever be another like you, ReMaa."

Talking about the re-release of "Umrao Jaan", filmmaker Muzaffar Ali announced on June 2, that the film has been restored in 4K resolution. The immersive big-screen revival begins June 27.

Ali also showcased a limited-edition coffee table book that offers a rare behind-the-scenes look into the making of 'Umrao Jaan'. It features never-before-seen photographs, costume sketches, calligraphy, poetry, and personal anecdotes from the set, the book is both a collector's item and a deeply reflective tribute to the film's artistic vision. Ali had shared that 'Umrao Jaan' was not just a film, it was a journey into the soul of a lost culture, a forgotten tehzeeb. "I had actors who brought a lot of heft to their characters, and then there was Rekha, who lived Umrao Jaan and truly immortalised it. I am thrilled that the film is back on the big screen for a whole new generation to discover a time and culture that's very much a part of our being".

**— IANS**

# Something new again

Actor Rashmika Mandanna announced her new project titled 'Mysaa' on Friday. The 'Chhaava' actor surprised her fans with her fierce avatar after she released the first look poster of her character in the film.

In a post on her Instagram handle, Rashmika shared the first look poster of 'Mysaa' while announcing her new project. It is directed by Rawindra Pulle.

In the poster, the Geetha Govindam actor is seen wearing a red saree, drenched in blood and holding a weapon, as she stares intensely into the camera, portraying a raw and angry look.

While sharing the poster, Rashmika shared her experience of the movie, saying that she is both "nervous" and "excited" about the movie's release.

She wrote, "Always try to give you something new... something different... something exciting...And this. This is one of those. A character I've never played before... a world I've never stepped into... and a version of me that even I hadn't met till now..It's fierce.. it's intense and it's extremely raw..I am so nervous and super excited, I genuinely cannot wait for you to see what we're going to be creating..This is just the beginning.**— ANI**

# Brad Pitt's home in Los Angeles targeted in burglary

Police are investigating a burglary at a Los Angeles home reportedly owned by Pitt. The actor was not on the premises at the time of the break-in as he has been traveling to promote his new racing thriller "F1," reports variety.com.

A carpet premiere event for the film was held Monday in London. The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed to NBC News that authorities responded to a break-in on the 2300 block of North Edgemont Street in the Los Feliz neighborhood of the city.

Three suspects reportedly breached the premises by climbing a fence and entering through a front window, "ransacking" the home and fleeing with an undisclosed amount of property. The value of the items taken was not disclosed. The suspects have not been publicly identified.

The burglarized property was purchased by Pitt in 2023 at a cost of $5.5 million, according to architecture magazine Domus. The luxurious home was previously owned by oil heiress Aileen Getty, who, in exchange, acquired Pitt's own old house in the eastern Hollywood Hills at a cost of $33 million.

Pitt has been promoting the Warner Bros. release of Apple Studios' "F1," which began preview screenings Thursday evening and will open theatrically through the coming weekend.

In a recent interview with GQ, the 61-year-old actor described how the big-budget blockbuster reaffirmed his thrill for acting.

**— IANS**

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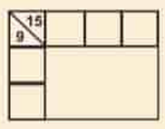
## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

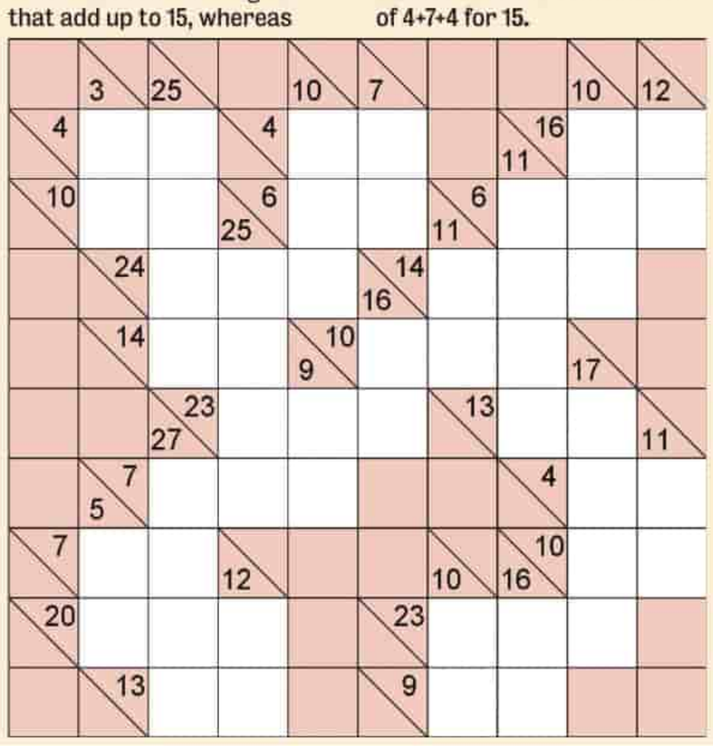
Four same sized drinking glasses are 1/4, 2/4, 3/4 & 4/4 filled with a total of 40 ozs of water. What is the capacity of each glass?

## Kakuro

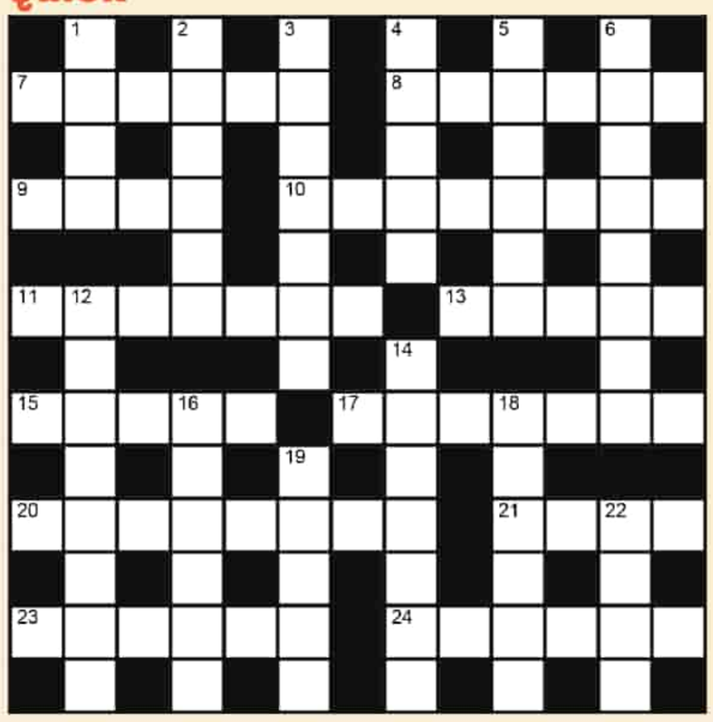
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.




Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Draft ___ : one who tries to avoid compulsory military service (6)
8 Joined; combined (6)
9 US college (4)
10 Distinguished fighters (8)
11 Grievances (7)
13 On the move (5)
15 Share certificate (5)
17 ____ sale : jumble sale? (7)
20 Gymnasts (8)
21 Unwanted plant (4)
23 Mexican lady (6)
24 Sri ___ : D'Silva for one, Duleep Mendis for another? (6)

**DOWN**

1 Roman dress (4)
2 Gave consent (6)
3 Killed or died in water (7)
4 An elementary particle (5)
5 Rather big townships? (6)
6 Disparaging, belittling or condemning (8)
12 Converts waste material into re-usable form (8)
14 ___ Market: Market In Shivajinagar (7)
16 Seven-legged crustacean (6)
18 Sounding like a cat? (6)
19 Man-made waterway (5)
22 And others, in Latin (2,2)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS D**

OBKV L OWG MRXV L OWG GR GPXAXLGKY L YLYV'Z ZWQF SRX W UKWX WVY W BWQS.

### Linemaro

Hey, you're pretty and I'm cute, together we'd be Pretty Cute

### Mindchow

The truth has a million faces, but there is only one truth

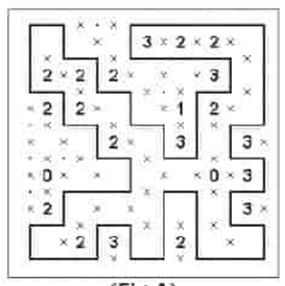
### Joke of the day

Man is the only animal that blushes... or needs to

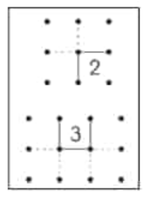
## Loop

### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

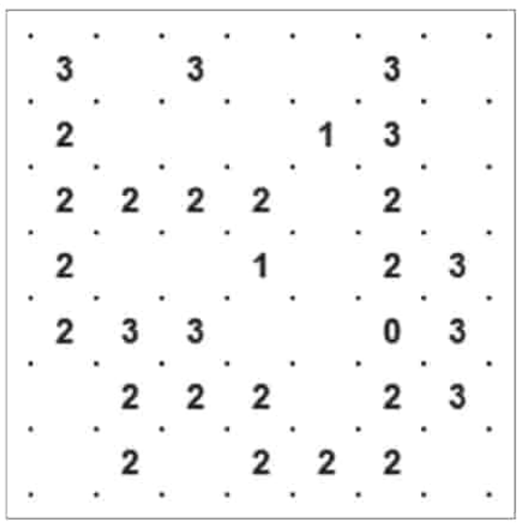


(Fig B) Not Allowed

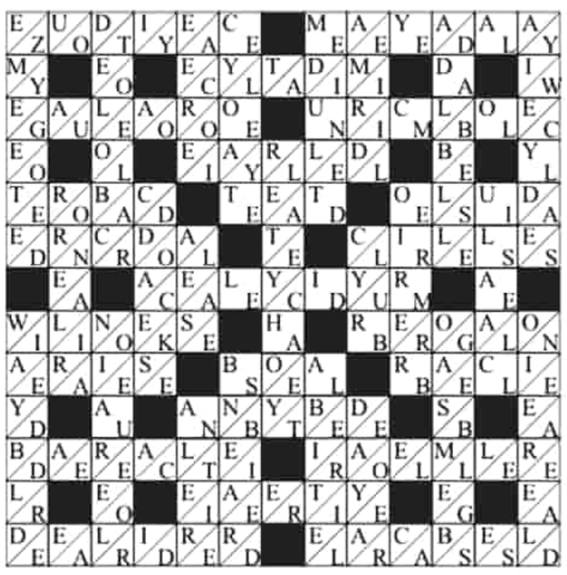
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



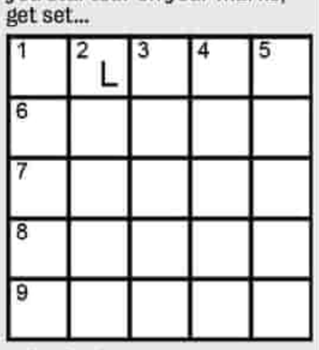
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

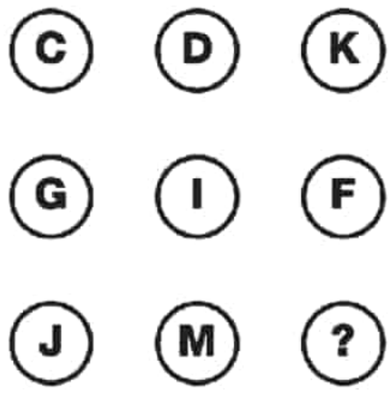
1 Gloss; 6 Acted;
7 Sane I; 8 Sisal;
9 Pinto

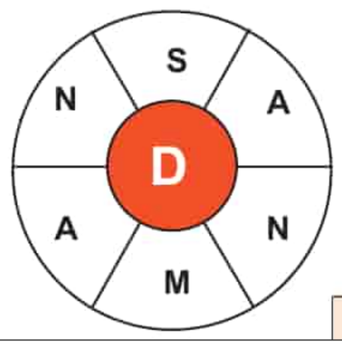
**DOWN**

1 Claps; 2 Liana;
3 Sod it; 4 Segos;
5 Is Ten

## Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?




## Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**01** Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | | | | | | 8 | |
| | | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | | |
| | | | 8 | | 1 | | | |
| 9 | | 3 | 5 | | 7 | 6 | | 4 |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| 7 | | 4 | 6 | | 2 | 9 | | 8 |
| | | | 1 | | 8 | | | |
| | | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | | |
| | 9 | | | | | | 7 | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 10
4 5 5 6

**Medium** = 26
2 3 4 8

**Hard** = 2
3 4 5 6

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

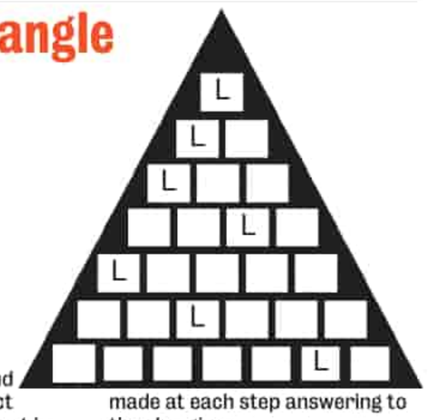
**Differences:** 1. Front of report card is different. 2. Pillow is smaller. 3. Arm of chair is higher. 4. Boy is moved. 5. Side table is missing. 6. Windowsill is added.

## Riddler

As I get closer, my tail grows longer; As I leave, my tail leads the way. What am I?

## Alpha triangle

1 XXV + XXV
2 French article
3 Cleaning agent
4 Depend upon
5 Fearful
6 Shouter
7 Aged



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye

AHOY, GRANNY!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I WAS HERE! THE PERFESSOR MADE ME INVISIBLE!
10-1
THANK GOODNESS! I WONDERED WHO WAS EATING THE SPINACH!
I THOUGHT WE HAD BURGLARS!
popeye.com

## Bizarrotrip

I have a recurring nightmare about being roasted inside the mouth of a giant boar.
Wayno & Piraro 3-22-25
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

## Crankshaft

SO YOU PRETTY MUCH KNEW ALL ALONG THAT YOU WANTED TO BE A CARTOONIST?
YES... I THINK THE WRITER MADELEINE L'ENGLE PUT IT BEST WHEN SHE WROTE: 'WE ARE ALL STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND... BUT NOT QUITE KNOWING WHAT OR WHERE HOME IS.'
THAT'S WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR... HOME!
© 2025 MeBigraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
3-22

## Mutts

ARE You SURE You WANT To BUILD OUR NEST HERE, ROBERT?
WHAT!?! ARE You KIDDING!?! Look AT THAT BUG-INFESTED STILL WATER MUD-HOLE!
LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!
3-22 mutts.com

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you'll likely feel satisfied at work. Important decisions made by evening may bring future benefits. A short trip could be on the horizon. Subordinates are expected to be supportive. Good news related to a sibling's success may uplift your mood. Legal matters may turn in your favor, and students will stay focused on their academic goals.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Your strong communication skills may lead to professional success. A polite and diplomatic approach will help accelerate progress at work. Lovebirds may engage in meaningful conversations that strengthen their relationship's foundation.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
You are blessed by the Moon today. New business partnerships may offer financial rewards. Your high energy and enthusiasm are likely to pay off. Your sense of self-respect will protect you from negative influences and help you stay focused.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Reconnecting with old friends or attending a social gathering may brighten your day. Business innovation may result in unexpected material gains. Good news from your children regarding academics is likely. Lovebirds will enjoy quality time together.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
The Moon's blessings bring financial growth. Small investments could yield significant returns. Increased work efficiency will help you achieve more with less effort. Legal matters may favor you, and rivals or hidden enemies will be under control.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today brings rewards from past efforts. Small actions can lead to big wins in both your personal and professional life. Your reputation is likely to rise at work, and innovation in business may prove fruitful. Disputes with your spouse could be resolved peacefully.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
You'll feel more in control today. Your network may provide valuable support at work. Plans for overseas travel may take shape. Domestic harmony and your love life may improve. You might bring home creative items, or plan a movie or outing with family and friends.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Overworking may lead to exhaustion and a lack of focus. Patience will be key. Avoid planning any adventurous travel. Previous investments might not yield the expected returns. Students should stay focused and consistent. Health issues related to the back, nervous system, liver, or skin could arise—take necessary precautions.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Your creativity is at a high point today. You may consider renovating your home or office, boosting your social image. Domestic life will be harmonious. Disputes with friends, colleagues, or partners may be resolved. Positive news regarding ongoing litigation may come your way.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Financial balance between income and expenses will improve your stability. Your network may help you implement important plans. Support from siblings and subordinates is likely. Visiting elders or a spiritual place may bring you inner peace.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may start the day feeling dull due to lack of sleep, which could affect your focus and efficiency. A visit to a spiritual or religious site may help restore clarity. By evening, elders' blessings might guide you positively. Consider prioritizing your parents' health today.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel sluggish until late afternoon, which could affect productivity. However, blessings from elders may help rejuvenate your energy later. Attention to your children's health is important. You'll be in a strong position against rivals. Investors should be cautious with major decisions. Minor stomach issues may arise.

## KIDZONE

Anushree, Bengaluru

Akhilesh S, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

## SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
x/4+x/2+3x/4+x=40
x/4+x/2(2/2)+3x/4+x(4/4)=40
x/4+2x/4+3x/4+4x/4=40
(x+2x+3x+4x)/4=40
10x/4=40/1
1(10x)=40(4)
10x=160
10x/10=160/10
x=16 oz.

**RIDDLER** A comet

**BULL'S EYE** damn, sand, SANDMAN

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | O | G | S |
| C | A | D | E | T |
| A | N | I | S | E |
| L | A | S | S | I |
| P | I | T | O | N |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | E | R | I | E | R | ■ | E | R | A | S | E | D | ■ | ■ |
| L | ■ | E | ■ | E | E | R | I | E | ■ | E | ■ | E | ■ | ■ |
| D | E | R | A | T | E | ■ | R | O | L | L | E | R | ■ | ■ |
| D | ■ | A | ■ | A | N | T | E | D | ■ | B | ■ | A | ■ | ■ |
| A | R | E | S | ■ | S | E | A | ■ | R | A | C | E | ■ | ■ |
| W | I | N | K | S | ■ | H | ■ | B | E | G | A | N | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | A | ■ | C | A | L | C | I | U | M | ■ | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | N | R | O | L | ■ | T | ■ | C | R | E | S | S | ■ | ■ |
| T | O | A | D | ■ | T | A | D | ■ | O | L | I | D | ■ | ■ |
| O | ■ | L | ■ | E | A | R | E | D | ■ | B | ■ | L | ■ | ■ |
| G | A | L | O | R | E | ■ | N | I | M | B | L | E | ■ | ■ |
| Y | ■ | O | ■ | C | L | A | I | M | ■ | A | ■ | I | ■ | ■ |
| Z | O | D | I | A | C | ■ | M | A | Y | D | A | Y | ■ | ■ |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | ■ | D | ■ | L | ■ | L | ■ | G | ■ | ■ | ■ | L | ■ | ■ |
| S | E | N | O | R | A | ■ | L | A | N | K | A | N | ■ | ■ |
| L | ■ | P | ■ | N | ■ | E | ■ | I | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | C | R | O | B | A | T | S | ■ | W | E | E | D | ■ | ■ |
| Y | ■ | S | ■ | C | ■ | S | ■ | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | C | R | I | P | ■ | R | U | M | M | A | G | E | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | D | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| G | R | U | D | G | E | S | ■ | A | S | T | I | R | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | E | ■ | N | ■ | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Y | A | L | E | ■ | W | A | R | R | I | O | R | S | ■ | ■ |
| G | ■ | R | ■ | O | ■ | A | ■ | T | ■ | C | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| D | O | D | G | E | R | ■ | U | N | I | T | E | D | ■ | ■ |
| T | ■ | A | ■ | D | ■ | O | ■ | C | ■ | ■ | ■ | D | ■ | ■ |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
Q. Working in columns, add the numerical value of the top and middle letters together to give the numerical value of the lower letter.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
When I was born I was so surprised I didn't talk for a year and a half.

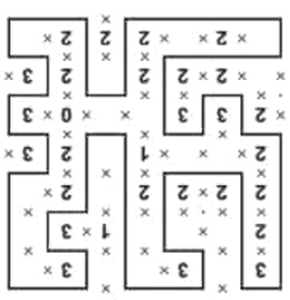
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 |

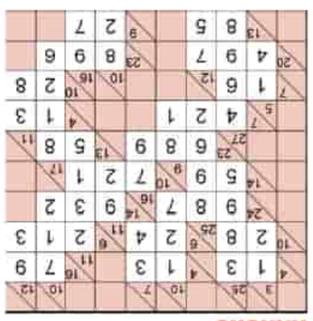
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
L, Le, Lye, Rely, Leery, Yeller, Elderly.

**GO FIGURE**
6 + 5 + 4 − 5 = 10
Easy
2 + 8 x 3 − 4 = 26
Medium
5 + 6 − 3 / 4 = 2
Hard

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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